

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
ROUTE SLIP

DATE

3 Jun 94

TO:

SAM BERRIES  
USEPA REGION 12 HSE-5J  
77 W. JACKSON BLVD.  
CHICAGO, IL 60604

☐ Approval  
☒ As requested  
☐ Comment  
☐ Confer  
☐ For information  
☐ For recommendation  
☐ Investigate  
☐ Necessary action  
☐ Note and destroy  
☐ Note and file  
☐ Note and return  
☐ Per conversation  
☐ Prepare reply  
☐ Signature

Remarks

SAUCET AREA 1  
INFO; SITE 6 "FIRE"  
MEMO + "MONSANTO  
LIST"

FROM:

PAUL TARACS

IL 532-0561  
EPA 001 7/75

076-001

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 9, 1994  
From: Paul E. Takács, BOL/DRM/FSMU  
To: Terry G. Ayers  
Subject: L1630200005 -- St. Clair County  
Sauget Sites (Area 1) -- Sauget  
Superfund/Technical Reports

This is to document events concerning underground fires that have occurred at Site G over the past few months. After IEPA was notified that portions of the site appeared to have been burnt, a recommendation was made to perform surface soil sampling to determine if the site posed a greater health hazard. Because of the presence of very high concentrations of PCBs and chlorophenols prior to the burn, dioxin sampling of soils was included.

On ~~June 3~~<sup>May 17</sup>, IEPA assisted USEPA in taking composite soil samples inside the more visibly contaminated areas within the fence that were impacted by fires. It was also noted that two separate areas of the drum disposal area at the east-central portion of Site G were still burning. The smoke had a reddish color and the HNU noted a 70ppm concentration. A pinkish-brown crystalline substance was found next to the burning areas. Composites of the crystalline substance as well as several tar-like products and a material resembling pumice were taken at Site G.

Several dioxin samples were composited just outside the fence at Site G. In addition, one soil composite (at Judith Lane and CS-C) was taken between the neighborhood and the alleged burning at the site. An interview with an employee of the property owner (Wiese Engineering) said that the Sauget Fire Department was called to put out the fires. The employee noted that the fire department flooded the burning area with water 24 hours a day for two weeks. Because of this action, a low lying area of about one acre was flooded with contaminated runoff. A water sample at this area was taken also.

IEPA and USEPA returned to Site G to conduct air sampling on June 6 after it was learned that the burning was again out of control. Summa canisters were set up around burning areas as well as around the perimeter of the site. A station was also set up near the residential area on Judith. After the air sampling was conducted, the Sauget Fire Department indicated that they had been called to extinguish fires at the site about four or five times since early last April. The fire department chief said that his firemen wear full protective gear when dealing with fires at Site G which he said resulted from spontaneous combustion.

The property owner was told to notify IEPA in the event that the fires start again. If they do, USEPA will conduct further air sampling to determine offsite effects of the burning. It is likely that Site G would be eligible for emergency action (e.g. capping) if further air sampling indicates a significant offsite health impact. IEPA has long recommended to USEPA that a surface removal would have to be conducted before the placement of a cap at Site G. >?

*contradicts what has been  
discussed w/ Paul.*

cc: Ken Mensing  
John Justice  
Glen Savage  
Larry Eastep  
Stan Black  
Tom Hornshaw  
Kim Hubbert  
David Webb, IDPH  
Division File

**NONPRIORITY POLLUTANT COMPOUND LIST - SAUGET SITES**

*Monsanto List*

**Volatile Organics**

Methyl-iso-butyl ketone  
Methyl-isoamyl ketone  
m-Xylene  
o-Xylene  
p-Xylene

**Acid Extractable Organics**

4-chlorophenol

**Base/Neutral Extractable Organics**

2-Nitroaniline  
4-Nitroaniline  
2-Nitrochlorobenzene  
4-Nitrochlorobenzene  
2,4-Dinitrochlorobenzene  
3,4-Dinitrochlorobenzene  
4-Nitrophenylamine  
Triphenyl Phosphate